



STATUTES OF THE EUROPEAN FREE ALLIANCE

ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE EUROPEAN FREE ALLIANCE ON 01.06.2004 IN BRUSSELS/BELGIUM, MODIFIED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM TIME TO TIME AND MOST RECENTLY ON 19.03.2025 BY VIDEOCONFERENCE.

The statutes of the European Free Alliance (the “Statutes”) shall comprise (i) the European Free Alliance (“EFA”) Charter (the “EFA Charter”) and (ii) the articles of association set out below (the “Articles of Association”). These Statutes shall be applied in conjunction with the rules of Internal order (the “Rules of Internal Order”). Both the Statutes and the Rules of Internal Order are made available on the EFA’s website.

EFA CHARTER

The European Free Alliance (EFA) promotes the right to democratic self-determination and supports the peoples’ aspirations to choose their own political future, including independence, greater autonomy or linguistic and cultural recognition for minorities.

EFA believes that all peoples have the right to choose their own destiny and the best institutional framework in which to achieve their empowerment.

EFA aims for European unity in diversity, an ever-closer European Union of free peoples based on the principle of subsidiarity, in solidarity with each other and other peoples of the world.

EFA believes Europe must involve all peoples in the decision-making process, in order to build a more democratic Union that is prosperous for all and that respects its true diversity.

EFA promotes the process of internal enlargement within the European Union as the mechanism by which nations that are already part of the European Union and which gain the status of a state, remain in the European Union as a Member State.

EFA shares the fundamental values that underpin membership in the European Union: human rights, respect for democracy and its foundations, solidarity and rejection of any kind of discrimination.

EFA stands for the protection of the environment, biodiversity and human health.

EFA strives for the official recognition, promotion and use of all languages, including lesser-used languages and those that face extinction.

EFA supports gender equality, feminist leadership and economic independence for women. EFA advocates for ending and preventing all sorts of violence against women.

EFA advocates for hate crime laws to cover homophobia and transphobia.

EFA believes economic, social and political dominance cannot be allowed, opposes any form of discrimination and promotes an equitable and fair distribution of wealth.

EFA believes that the European project should bring its citizens closer to the institutions, allowing for more means of participation and closer scrutiny mechanisms.

EFA wishes to strengthen the European Parliament's powers, to make the Council of the European Union more transparent, and to democratically elect the European Commission president.

EFA supports inclusion, diversity and bridge-building between peoples. In Europe and worldwide, EFA stands for peace and cooperation with all peoples, especially those suffering from oppression and deprivation, and supports stronger rights for minorities and stateless nations.

EFA stands for open and pluralistic societies and advocates for solidarity on migration issues with countries and regions at the European Union borders while working for inclusive policies for migrants.

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The following is the consolidated version of the Articles of Association originally adopted in Brussels (BE) on 1 June 2004 and modified by the General Assembly from time to time and most recently on 19 March 2025.

TITLE I – NAME, REGISTERED OFFICE, PURPOSE AND DURATION

Article 1 – Name, Abbreviation and Distinctive Image

The European Free Alliance is a European political party (in abbreviated form “EUPP”), (original denomination and abbreviation in French and Dutch), hereinafter referred to as the “Party” or “EFA”. The Party is constituted and incorporated as a non-profit organisation (ASBL/VZW) under Belgian law.

The Party shall be governed by (i) the provisions of Regulation (UE, Euratom) No 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute of and funding of European political parties and European political foundations, hereinafter referred to as the “Regulation”, (ii) the relevant provisions of Belgian law, including but not limited to the Belgian Code of Companies and Associations (hereinafter referred to as the “BCCA”) (iii) the Statutes, and (iv) the latest version of the Rules of Internal Order as adopted on 19 March 2025. The General Assembly is authorised to update the reference to the latest version of the Rules of Internal Order when required due to a revision or amendment of the internal rules.

The denomination of the Party is the “European Free Alliance”, which can be abbreviated as “EFA”.

The Party’s logo and distinctive sign consists of a purple rectangle which has the left side shaped to form the outline of the letter “E”, reversed, with the text, on the right, in purple, “European Free Alliance”, written with the font “ASPEKTA”, on two (2) lines and aligned to the left. The logo can be used alone without the text, not vice versa.



For smaller spaces, the text “European Free Alliance” can be replaced with “EFA” written in purple with the font “ASPEKTA” on one (1) line aligned to the left.



For special occasions, a version of the logo with the sign aligned to the top right, including motion graphics, can be used.



EFA's colour scheme is the following, in this order of priority:

The purple colour is RGB 119, 62, 144/HEX 773E90 /CMYK 65, 85, 0, 0.

The orange colour is RGB 238, 128, 98 /HEX ED8062 /CMYK1, 60, 60, 0.

The cream colour is RGB 234, 214, 203 /HEX/EAD6CB /CMYK 9, 18, 20, 0.

The white colour is RGB 250, 245, 242 / HEX FAF5F2/CMYK 2, 4, 5, 0.

EFA members can use the logo of EFA without altering it.

Article 2 – Registered Office

The registered office of the Party is established at Boomkwekerijstraat 1/4, 1000 Brussels, Brussels-Capital region, Belgium.

The Bureau has the authority, by a simple majority vote, to relocate the registered office in Belgium, provided that such a relocation does not necessitate a modification of the language of the articles of association under the applicable language regulations. If, due to the relocation of the registered office, a modification of the language of the articles of association is required, only the General Assembly has the power to make this decision, subject to compliance with the rules prescribed for amending the Statutes.

The Bureau shall also decide on the setting up of offices and branches.

Article 3 – Aims and Objectives

The Party shall be authorised to undertake directly or indirectly all necessary or required actions to promote and achieve the nonprofit objectives mentioned below. The party does not pursue a for-profit purpose.

EFA shall be governed by the principles set out in the EFA Charter.

EFA shall adopt a common political programme on a European level, based on the EFA Charter, and the following non-profit objectives:

- Promotion of the right to self-determination and support for the aspirations which EFA member parties have for their countries, including independence, greater autonomy, and linguistic and cultural recognition.
- European unity in diversity creating a Union of free peoples, based on the principle of subsidiarity, who believe in solidarity with each other and all peoples of the world.
- Promote the process of internal enlargement within the European institutions and elsewhere as the mechanism by which nations which gain the status of a state remain an EU Member State.
- Improve at a European level the representation of regions.

- Demand that European institutions recognize and safeguard the civil, political and cultural rights of the citizens of each nation or region in Europe.
- Promotion of European cooperation based on the diversity of nations, regions, peoples, cultures and languages.
- The defence of human rights and the rights of peoples.
- Protection of the environment and sustainable development.
- The creation of a fair society based on solidarity, with policies which favour progress, social cohesion and equal opportunities for all citizens.
- Support gender equality, feminist leadership and economic independence for women.
- Advocate for ending and preventing violence against women.
- Advocate for hate crime laws to cover homophobia and transphobia.
- Acceptance of the principles of the parliamentary and participatory democracy.
- Promotion of close co-operation between EFA member parties with the realization of these objectives as the main focus.
- Taking an active part in the promotion of a free and pluralistic democracy.
- Integrating all these objectives in a coherent and common political program.

Article 4 – Duration

The Party has been established for an indefinite period of time.

It may be dissolved by decision of the General Assembly, taken under the same conditions as those foreseen for the modification of the object or purpose, by way of law, for the reasons indicated in the BCCA and these Articles of Association (such as Title VI hereof), or by judicial decision.

TITLE II – MEMBERS

Article 5 – Membership

The Party shall be composed of four (4) membership categories: (i) full members, (ii) associate members, (iii) individual members, and (iv) honorary members.

The membership is strictly exclusive and in no case may an EFA member also be member of any other European political party.

Any member that is found to be also member of another European political party shall be automatically expelled.

The General Assembly shall be empowered to acknowledge the ceased existence of a member.

The quality and capacity of a member of the Party is in principle for an indefinite period and not transferrable to another entity or person, unless otherwise foreseen in these Articles of Association.

The Bureau shall give a preliminary view on membership applications prior to their submission to the General Assembly for approval. Decisions concerning acceptance of new members shall require a simple majority vote by the General Assembly.

Article 6 – Full Members

Full membership can be granted, upon request and following the procedure outlined in the Rules of Internal Order, to political parties and organisations which subscribe to the political program of EFA and on the condition that they are either (i) politically active at European, state, or sub-state level on the territory of the EU or in a formerly EU territory or (ii) have elected members at European, state or sub-state level on the territory of the EU or a formerly EU territory.

Each full member has one (1) vote in the General Assembly.

Article 7 – Associate Members

Political parties or organisations may be accepted as associate members, upon request and following the procedure outlined in section 2 of the Rules of Internal Order, provided that they (i) subscribe to the political program of EFA, and (ii) are not politically active in the EU or a formerly EU territory.

Associate members do not have voting rights in the General Assembly.

Article 8 – Individual Members

Individuals may be accepted as individual members by unanimous decision of the Bureau.

The individual member must hold an elected office and shall not be a member of an EFA member party or organisation.

The individual membership lasts for the period of the elective mandate of the individual member.

Each individual member has one (1) vote in the General Assembly.

Article 9 – Honorary Members

The General Assembly may grant honorary membership to an individual after a proposal made by the Bureau and after consultation with the concerned parties.

Honorary members may be, for example, former EFA members of the European Parliament or other persons considered important in the history of EFA.

Honorary members can only be accepted if they no longer hold office for EFA or work for EFA as staff.

Honorary members do not have any voting rights in the General Assembly.

Article 10 – Rights of Members

Full, associate, individual, and honorary members have the following rights to:

- attend the General Assembly;
- be regularly informed about the political activities of the other members;
- receive political support and solidarity;
- use the name and imagery of EFA (by approval of the party for associate members).

Full members and individual members also have the right to:

- submit motions and amendments to the General Assembly.
- vote in the General Assembly.

Article 11 – Obligations of Members

Full, associate, individual, honorary members have the following obligations to:

- maintain regular contacts and good relations with the other members and the Party;
- comply with all their financial obligations to EFA, if any;
- respect and comply with the provisions of the Statutes, including the Articles of Association, the Rules of Internal Order, the EFA Charter and the decisions of its bodies, and
- avoid incurring any harm to the Party, its members and interests.

In addition to the above-mentioned obligations, full and associate members shall pay membership fees and annual contributions, the amount of which shall be approved by the General Assembly in accordance with the Rules of Internal Order (Unless a member is exempted from the payment of membership contributions under the applicable laws). The amount of contribution fees which full and associate members shall bear is set forth in Annex II of the Rules of Internal Order.

Individual members shall be required to pay an annual contribution, the amount of which shall be set by the Bureau in accordance with the Rules of Internal Order.

Honorary members are not required to pay any membership fees or annual contributions.

The Party will ensure that the rules and values set forth in the EFA Charter are observed and complied with by itself and all members. For example, the Party will aim to ensure full gender equality in practice at all of its and its members levels. With a view to ensuring such gender equality, the Party and all of its members will adopt adequate measures to promote vocational activities for women and shall aim to include gender-specific targets for each level of employment.

Article 12 – Members in a Changing EU

In case the composition of the EU changes and a Member State withdraws from the EU membership, the member party active in that ex-Member State can keep their status within the Party if they wish.

Article 13 – Number of Members

The number of members shall be unlimited but must not be fewer than two (2) full members.

Article 14 – Acceptance of New Members

The General Assembly has sovereign power to decide on any application for membership.

The General Assembly may repeal the decision of the Bureau accepting an individual member.

The General Assembly is not obliged to give reason for accepting or rejecting applications.

All votes concerning members shall be held by secret ballot.

Article 15 – Merging of Existing Members

In case two (2) or more members, existing as legal entities, create a new legal entity and at the same time cease to exist as separate entities, but aim to continue the membership in EFA, the General Assembly shall vote on the acceptance of the new entity as a member.

Article 16 – Merging of Members with Third Parties

In case a member, existing as a legal entity, creates a new legal entity, with a third party and at the same time ceases to exist as a separate entity, but aims to continue the membership in EFA through the new entity, the General Assembly shall vote on the acceptance of the new entity as a member.

Article 17 – Separation of Members

If a member, existing as a legal entity, splits into two (2) or more legal entities, and ceases to exist as a separate legal entity, any of the successors which wishes to remain in EFA should submit an application which shall be voted on by the General Assembly in the same manner as an application by a new member.

Article 18 – Electoral Coalitions

Under no circumstances may a third party claim the right to a direct or automatic membership in EFA based on its participation in an electoral coalition with one (1) or more EFA members.

Article 19 – Register of Members

A register of full, associate, individual, honorary members is provided in Annex I of the Rules of Internal Order.

The register contains the legal name, juridical form and registered office address of the full and associate members and the family name, name, address of individual, and honorary members.

All decisions concerning members shall be recorded in the register administered by the Bureau within eight (8) calendar days from the date the Bureau receives a notice of the decision, including the date of affiliation of members.

Article 20 – Access to Documents

Any member of the Party may consult the register of members at the Party's registered office. The member shall address a written request to the Bureau to request such access. The member and the Bureau shall agree on a date and time for consulting the register.

All members may consult the accounting reports, the minutes and decisions of the General Assembly, of the Bureau and of any person holding a mandate inside or on behalf of the Party and any other accounting document according to the provisions of the applicable law.

Third parties may request extracts of the official documents of the Party, which shall be signed by the representative of the President or of the Secretary General.

The official documents of the Party which are accessible by third parties are defined in the Rules of Internal Order or by the applicable law.

Article 21 – Annual Contributions

The system for calculating the contribution of members is determined and approved by the General Assembly, on the basis of a proposal by the Bureau.

The annual contribution must be paid before the date of the General Assembly of each year. With regard to members who have voting rights in the General Assembly, said rights are dependent on the member having paid the annual contribution for the year no later than the date of the relevant General Assembly.

Article 22 – Resignation, Suspension, Expulsion

Article 22.1 – Resignation

Any member may at any time resign from the Party.

Their resignation must be notified to the Bureau.

Any member which one (1) month after receiving due warning in writing still fails to fulfil its financial and/or administrative obligations to the Party shall be deemed to have resigned.

Article 22.2 – Suspension

Article 22.2.1 – Proposition of Suspension

Full members may propose to the Bureau the suspension of a member. The proposal shall require support of at least one-twentieth (1/20) of full members.

A proposal of suspension of a member shall be put forward by the Bureau to the General Assembly.

Article 22.2.2 – Recommendation of Suspension by the Bureau

The Bureau will issue a recommendation on the suspension of a member to the General Assembly.

Following the adoption of its recommendation to the General Assembly, the Bureau shall inform the concerned member in the shortest reasonable timeframe.

Article 22.2.3 – Decision of Suspension

The decision of suspension of a member shall require a simple majority by the General Assembly.

Any such decision shall be at the sole discretion of the General Assembly and shall not require a written explanation.

Article 22.2.4 – Consequences of Suspension

A suspension results in a member losing its voting rights.

A suspended member and individuals affiliated to such suspended member are not eligible candidates for membership in any statutory body of the Party.

A suspended member and individuals affiliated to the suspended members are suspended from the statutory bodies of which they are members for the duration of the suspension. As part of its decision of suspending a member, the General Assembly shall at the same time appoint (to the extent required) a substitute member to (temporarily) replace such suspended member in the statutory bodies of the Party.

The suspension of a member means that EFA will not reimburse any expense of a suspended member nor will organise any activity with the suspended member.

The suspension of a member means that the duty to pay the annual contribution is waived.

The suspension of a member is a temporary measure that can be lifted by a simple majority by the General Assembly.

Article 22.2.5 – Suspension by the Bureau in Exceptional Circumstances

In exceptional circumstances, including but not limited to breaching the EFA principles set out in the EFA Charter, the suspension of a member can be taken by the Bureau.

Where a member is suspended in exceptional circumstances, the Bureau may at its discretion lift the suspension of the member. The General Assembly may approve or overturn the decision at its next meeting.

Article 22.3 – Expulsion

Article 22.3.1 – Proposition of Expulsion

Full members may propose to the Bureau the expulsion of a member. The proposal shall require support of at least one-twentieth (1/20) of the full members.

Any proposal of expulsion of a member shall be put forward by the Bureau to the General Assembly.

Article 22.3.2 – Recommendation of Expulsion by the Bureau

The Bureau will issue a recommendation on the expulsion of a member to the General Assembly.

Following the adoption of its recommendation to the General Assembly the Bureau shall inform the concerned member in the shortest reasonable timeframe.

Article 22.3.3 – Decision of Expulsion

The expulsion of a member may be declared only by the General Assembly, following a vote, where a majority of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members present or represented supports the expulsion.

Any decision to expel a member shall be a sovereign decision and will not require a written explanation.

Article 22.3.4 – Consequences of Expulsion

The expelled member will no longer be considered a member of the Party with immediate effect. As part of its decision of expelling a member, the General Assembly shall at the same time appoint (to the extent required) a substitute member to replace such suspended member in the statutory bodies of the Party.

Article 22.4 – Right to Be Heard

The member subject to a recommendation of suspension or expulsion has the right to state its case in the General Assembly before the vote.

The Bureau before voting on a suspension of a member in exceptional circumstances shall ensure the member's right to be heard.

Article 22.5 – Claims on the Party's Assets

Resigned or expelled members and their successors shall have no entitlement to the assets of the Party.

They may not claim restitution or reimbursement of contributions paid or any other payment made to EFA.

The effects of resignation or expulsion are definitive and absolute.

Article 22.6 – Suspension and Expulsion of Individuals

The Bureau may - at its sole discretion - decide to refuse participation to any individual as a party delegate to a GA, representative of a Bureau member, attendee at an EFA event, or any other role affiliated to EFA, in the event such individual fails to comply with the rules and/or values set forth in the Statutes or the Rules of Internal Order (such as, for example and without limitation, the anti-harassment policy attached in annex IV of the Rules of Internal Order). To the extent such individual was appointed by a member of the Party, such member shall as soon as practically possible appoint a substitute individual to replace such suspended or expelled individual.

TITLE III – ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Article 23 – General Organisational Structure

The organisational structures of the Party are:

- the General Assembly;
- the Bureau;
- the Congress;
- the Conciliation Committee; and
- the Secretariat.

A. General Assembly

Article 24 – Composition

The General Assembly is composed of all full members and individual members.

All members of the Party shall be invited to attend the General Assembly.

Article 25 – Votes

Full members and individual members have the right to vote.

All votes are equal.

In the event of a tie, the proposal is rejected.

Any vote concerning members shall be held by secret ballot.

Article 26 – Vote of EFAY

One (1) representative of European Free Alliance Youth (EFAY) is invited to the meetings of the General Assembly with the right to speak on all matters and to vote in all matters with exception of the points on finances, staff, appointments or dismissals of Bureau Members, changes to the internal party rules (including the Statutes, the Rules of Internal Order, and Annexes thereto) and any other matters reserved to the EFA members by the Articles of Association or the BCAA.

Article 27 – Decisions

All the decisions are taken, if not otherwise indicated, by a simple majority. Abstentions do not count as negative votes and shall be excluded from the deliberations.

The decisions taken by the General Assembly shall be binding on all the members and on members who are absent, abstained or voted against.

Article 28 – Competences

The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the EFA with the competences as stipulated in the BCCA and these Articles of Association.

Accordingly, the competences reserved to the General Assembly are the following:

- adopt motions to inform the political program;
- amend the Articles of Association of the Party;
- amend the Rules of Internal Order;
- appoint and dismiss Bureau Members;
- discharge Bureau Members from responsibilities connected to the work on behalf of the Party;
- approve annual budgets and accounts;
- accept the resignation, to decide on the suspension of members (in ordinary circumstances) and to expel members;
- lift the suspension of a member taken by the Bureau in exceptional circumstances;
- decide on all the membership requests and to repeal the decisions of the Bureau concerning the acceptance of individual members;
- determine the rules for the annual contribution of members;
- establish the economic and financial plan of the Party;
- establish whether all rules and values as set forth in the EFA Charter are respected and enforced within the Party and implement specific steps and measures to achieve full compliance with the EFA Charter;
- approve the transformation of the Party to any other juridical form;

- dissolve the Party;
- appoint liquidators, define their authority and the method of liquidation;
- deal with any other matter reserved to it by law and these Articles of Association.

Article 29 – Ordinary General Assembly

An ordinary General Assembly must be convened at least once a year to approve the previous year's accounts, give a discharge to the Bureau Members, approve the budget and adopt political motions. The ordinary General Assembly has to be held within 6 months after the end of the financial year. An ordinary General Assembly can be held in the form of an in-person meeting or by other means if considered more appropriate in the given circumstances by the Bureau.

Members have the right to ask questions during the ordinary General Assembly meeting. Each member shall ensure that such right of questioning is applicable irrespective of the gender, religion, race, colour, sexual orientation, age or any other status of the individual asking such questions in the name of a member.

Article 29.1 – Convening

Each year the Bureau shall convene all members to an ordinary General Assembly.

All members shall be convened at least thirty (30) calendar days before the date of the meeting. The agenda shall be attached to the convocation. The agenda attached to the convocation is not required to be final.

Article 29.2 – Agenda

The agenda of an ordinary General Assembly is proposed by the Bureau.

Any proposal signed by one-twentieth (1/20) of the members of the General Assembly must be placed on the agenda. The proposal signed by one-twentieth (1/20) of the members of the General Assembly shall be notified to the Bureau at least fifteen (15) calendar days before the Annual General Assembly.

All matters on which the General Assembly wishes to take a decision must be included in the agenda.

Article 30 – Extraordinary General Assembly

The Bureau may at any time convene a special or extraordinary General Assembly.

An Extraordinary General Assembly is every General Assembly which decides on an amendment of the Articles of Association. A Special General Assembly concerns every General Assembly that is not an Ordinary or Extraordinary General Assembly. This Article 30 is only applicable to Extraordinary and Special General Assemblies.

A special or extraordinary General Assembly may be called by the Bureau or upon the written request of one fifth (1/5) of the members of the General Assembly.

The request for a special or extraordinary General Assembly shall include the proposed agenda.

A special or extraordinary General Assembly can be held in the form of an in-person meeting or by other means if considered more appropriate in the given circumstances by the Bureau.

Article 30.1 – Convening

An extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened by the Bureau:

- (i) at least fifteen (15) calendar days before the date of an extraordinary General Assembly meeting if the extraordinary General Assembly is requested by the Bureau, or
- (ii) within twenty-one (21) calendar days following the date of the notification of a written request of a minimum of one-fifth (1/5) of the members of the General Assembly.

If an extraordinary General Assembly is called by the members of the General Assembly (referred to in sub-point (ii) above), it must take place within forty (40) calendar days from the moment the request is notified in writing to the Bureau.

The Bureau shall send the convocation for an extraordinary General Assembly in written form to all the members of the Party. The convocation shall contain the agenda and shall indicate the place, date and time of the extraordinary General Assembly.

Article 30.2 – Agenda

The agenda shall contain any item submitted by (i) the Bureau or (ii) items included in the written request by a minimum of one-fifth (1/5) of the members of the General Assembly.

Article 31 – Proxy

A voting member of the Party which does not attend the meeting of the General Assembly can delegate its voting right to another voting member of the Party through a written proxy submitted by email to info@e-f-a.org.

A member of the Party may only accept the delegation of one (1) proxy voting right.

Article 32 – Chair

The General Assembly is chaired by the President or the Secretary General. If neither is able to attend, the General Assembly is chaired by a representative of a Bureau member proposed by the Bureau and appointed by the General Assembly.

Article 33 – General Assembly Presidium

The General Assembly Presidium shall comprise the President, the Secretary General and two (2) deputy returning officers chosen by the President at the beginning of the meeting who are responsible for collecting and counting the votes.

The General Assembly Presidium shall in any event be comprised of two (2) men and two (2) women.

Article 34 – Quorum and Majorities

The quorum to validly adopt decisions is, if not otherwise required by these Articles of Association or the law, the majority of members with voting rights.

Decisions of the General Assembly are taken in principle with a simple majority of the votes of the members present or represented.

More than a simple majority of the votes of the members present or represented of the General Assembly is required in the two (2) following instances:

(i) the General Assembly can adopt a decision to amend the Articles of Association only if two-thirds (2/3) of the members entitled to vote are present or represented.

The decision to amend the Articles of Association shall be taken with a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes of the members present or represented. Abstentions are not counted as valid votes in accordance with the applicable Belgian law.

(ii) the General Assembly may decide to change the aims and objectives of the Party or dissolve it only with a majority of four-fifths (4/5) of the votes of the members present or represented. Abstentions are not counted as valid votes in accordance with the applicable Belgian law.

Article 35 – Second Call

If the quorum required in Article 34 above is not attained, the General Assembly is convened for a second meeting, which can validly decide regardless of the number of members present or represented.

The second meeting shall take place within (15) calendar days following the first meeting.

Article 36 – Minutes

A record shall be taken of every meeting in the form of minutes, signed by the President or the Secretary General and filed in a register specially designated for this purpose.

The register shall be kept at the registered office, where it may be inspected by any member, but it may not be removed.

B. Bureau

Article 37 – Composition

The Bureau is the administrative body of EFA.

The Bureau is composed of at least three (3) members. If the General Assembly consists of only two full members, the Bureau may exceptionally consist of two (2) members. The number of Bureau members is confirmed or changed by the General Assembly before proceeding to its renewal.

The Bureau elects, in its first meeting of its mandate, a President, a Secretary General and a Treasurer who each have a role within the Bureau as described in this section below. Amongst the President, Secretary General and Treasurer, there shall at least be one (1) man and one (1) woman.

The Bureau will guarantee the principle of gender equality and equal opportunities among its members (and their representatives) and shall where possible include gender-specific targets for Bureau membership.

Article 37.1 – Bureau Members

The members of the Bureau, hereinafter referred to as the “Bureau Members”, shall contribute to the collective decision-making of the Bureau.

The Bureau Members are legal entities which are full members of EFA.

The Bureau Members exercise their office by designating an individual natural person (the “representative” of the Bureau Member), permanent in principle, mandated to represent them in the Bureau, and a substitute to replace them in case of absence.

The Bureau elects a President, a Secretary General and a Treasurer from among its members’ permanent representatives. All other permanent representatives have the title of Vice-President.

The Bureau Members shall assist the President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer in their functions.

Article 37.2 – President

The President is the spokesperson of the Bureau, speaking and writing on behalf of EFA and providing political leadership.

The President’s role is to involve Bureau members in the political work of EFA to ensure the political and strategic development of EFA.

The President shall liaise regularly with the Secretary General and the Treasurer on all matters.

EFA shall facilitate the conditions to enable the President to exercise his or her office effectively.

Article 37.3 – Secretary General

The Secretary General shall coordinate the political action of EFA, assisting the President in all matters and promoting internal political relations.

The Secretary General shall take the place of the President if he or she is temporarily unable to attend to his or her duties.

Article 37.4 – Treasurer

The Treasurer shall oversee the Party’s Financial Administration and review Financial Policies and Procedures.

The Treasurer shall advise the Bureau on Financial Strategy and Fundraising and oversee contributions and expenditures received or made by the Party.

Article 38 – Election

The Bureau is elected by the General Assembly following the procedure laid out in the Rules of Internal Order.

Only full members of EFA can submit candidacies to be Bureau Members. Their candidacy must include a nomination of a permanent representative and a substitute, so to guarantee their parties’ full attendance and participation in the Bureau. Among the representative and the substitute, there should be at least one woman.

The candidacies for the Bureau shall be submitted to the Bureau in writing by email to info@e-f-a.org.

Candidacies must be submitted at least thirty (30) calendar days before the meeting of the General Assembly, which will appoint the new Bureau.

The outgoing Bureau must validate the candidacies received and submit them to the General Assembly. The Bureau's decision regarding the validity of candidacies is final.

Article 39 – Mandate

The Bureau is a collective decision-making body that sets the political direction of EFA, according to the proposals and policies approved by the General Assembly and the Congress.

The Bureau has the responsibility for the management of the Party.

Bureau Members are appointed for a period of three (3) years and may be dismissed by the General Assembly, individually or collectively, at any time.

Bureau Members may be eligible for re-election.

The Bureau membership is terminated by dissolution of a member party or organisation, resignation or dismissal.

Serving Bureau Members shall remain in office until provision has been made for their replacement.

Article 40 – Replacing a Bureau Member

In case of dissolution of the member party or organisation, resignation, expulsion, suspension or dismissal, the next candidate on the list approved at the time of the Bureau election is automatically elected to the Bureau.

The mandate of the replacing Bureau Member shall end with the mandate of the Bureau.

Article 40.1 – Replacing a Bureau Member's Representative

In case neither the permanent representative of a Bureau Member nor the substitute is able to assume his or her responsibilities before the end of the mandate, the Bureau Member he or she represents shall provide for a replacement, it being understood that gender equality shall be complied with at all times within the permanent representatives of the Bureau Members.

The Bureau Member may revoke the mandate of its permanent representative at any moment under the condition of appointing at the same time a successor.

The General Assembly shall take note of any changes of the permanent representatives of the Bureau Members.

Article 41 – Honorarium and Participation Allowance

The President shall receive an honorarium or a representation and participation allowance from EFA during the term of his or her mandate if EFA's financial situation allows for it, in the view of the Treasurer. The honorarium shall be granted under the conditions set forth in the Rules of Internal Order.

Article 42 – Votes

All the Bureau members have the right to vote.

All the votes are equal.

In the event of a tie, the President has the casting vote. If the President is unable to attend the Bureau meeting, the Secretary General shall have the casting vote. If the Secretary General is also unable to attend the meeting, a Vice-President nominated by the President and Secretary General shall have the casting vote.

Any vote concerning persons shall be held by secret ballot.

Article 43 – Decisions

Bureau Members shall act collectively.

All the decisions are adopted with a simple majority of votes, unless these Articles of Association or the BCCA prescribe otherwise.

Decisions of the Bureau shall be equally binding on members who are absent, abstained or voted against.

The approval of a request of individual membership requires the unanimity of the members present or represented.

Article 44 – Competences

The competences reserved to the Bureau are to:

- manage and represent the Party in all judicial and non-judicial acts;
- define the forms of implementation of the political strategy approved by the General Assembly;
- guarantee that all rules and values set forth in the EFA Charter, including without limitation gender equality, are complied with within the Bureau and the Party as a whole;
- plan and approve the activities of the Party;
- accept individual members;
- act in all matters necessary or useful for the attainment of the Party's objective, with the exception of those matters the law explicitly reserves to the General Assembly;
- exercise full power over the Party's patrimony, including but not limited to that of alienation, of moveable and immoveable property, of mortgaging, borrowing and lending, and of any commercial and banking transaction;
- execute the decisions of the General Assembly.
- The competences reserved to the Bureau Members are to:
 - represent the Party in a formal capacity;
 - participate in EFA Bureau working groups;

- represent EFA Party in its relations with EFA member parties, European institutions, international organisations and any other stakeholder.
- The competences reserved to the President are to:
- act as the primary spokesperson of the Bureau by speaking or writing on behalf of EFA;
- provide political leadership for EFA;
- act as a liaison with the Secretariat;
- promote contact with new parties, movements and other stakeholders.

Article 45 – Bureau Meeting

A Bureau meeting shall be held at least once a year.

Article 45.1 – Convening

A Bureau meeting may be called by (i) the President or the Secretary General of the Bureau, or (ii) upon the written request of at least two (2) Bureau Members:

(i) the President or the Secretary General of the Bureau may at any time convene a Bureau meeting.

(ii) if a Bureau meeting is called by at least two (2) Bureau Members, the written request must be addressed to the President or to the Secretary General. In this event, a meeting of the Bureau must be held within fifteen (15) calendar days from the moment the written request is notified to the President or to the Secretary General.

In both instances, a meeting of the Bureau shall be convened by an ordinary letter or e-mail, at least eight (8) calendar days before the meeting, except in case of urgent necessity, which must be justified and confirmed by the Bureau. If the meeting has not been convened in time, the Bureau Members which have requested its convening have the right to convene the Bureau themselves.

The convocation shall include the date, time and venue of the meeting.

Article 45.2 – Agenda

The agenda for each meeting of the Bureau shall be announced, at the latest, the day before the meeting.

Article 46 – Proxy

Any member of the Bureau not attending a meeting may delegate to another member of the Bureau its vote through a written proxy, submitted by email to info@e-f-a.org.

A member of the Bureau may represent only one (1) other member by proxy.

Article 47 – Chair

The President chairs the meeting.

If the President is unable to attend the meeting, the Secretary General chairs the meeting.

If the Secretary General is unable to attend the meeting a Vice-President chosen from among the members present chairs the meeting.

Article 48 – Quorum

The Bureau can only adopt a decision if at least half of its members are present or represented.

Article 49 – Second Call

If the required quorum is not attained a second meeting may be convened, which can validly decide regardless of the number of Bureau Members present or represented.

The Bureau convened in a second meeting is entitled to take a valid decision with a simple majority.

The second meeting shall take place within fifteen (15) calendar days following the first meeting.

Article 50 – Minutes

A record shall be taken of every meeting in the form of minutes, signed by the representative of the President or the Secretary General and by the representatives of any Bureau Members who so request, and filed in a register designated for this purpose.

The register shall be kept at the registered office, where it may be inspected by any member but may not be removed.

Article 51 – Legal Representation

The Bureau is the body representing the Party and has all the powers that are not expressly attributed by the Articles of Association or by the BCCA to the General Assembly.

The Bureau, represented by the President, shall act on behalf of EFA as a plaintiff and as a defendant in front of every court.

In respect of third parties, EFA shall be legally bound only by either the signature of the representative of the President or those of at least two (2) representatives of Bureau members, in both cases, expressly mandated to do it.

The Bureau may mandate the power to represent the Party or delegate the daily management to one (1) or more Bureau Members or to one (1) or more third persons acting individually or jointly.

The mandate to represent the Party or the delegation to the daily management of the Party define the actions that the person(s) may undertake and the obligations that can be taken for and on behalf of EFA.

The Bureau may at any time revoke the powers with immediate effect.

In case the delegation will be granted for more than three (3) years, every three (3) years an evaluation of the work of the said individual(s) shall be done.

In case the power to represent the Party is given to more than one individual and all have the same powers, a person responsible for the work of the group is also appointed.

The Party is bound only within the limits of the powers entrusted to the representatives or delegates, without prejudice to the responsibility of the Bureau Members in case of acts exceeding delegated powers.

The Party is bound with third parties only under the condition that representatives and delegates mention their delegation and their powers when acting for and on behalf of the Party.

Article 52 – Personal Responsibility

Neither the Bureau Members nor the persons to whom the work of the Bureau has been entrusted shall incur any personal obligations on behalf of the Party because of their role; their liability shall be limited to the performance of their duties.

Article 53 – Acceptance of Gifts and Other Liberalities

The Treasurer, and in his/her absence, the President, is empowered to accept, either provisionally or definitively, the gifts and all the other liberalities made to the Party and to complete all formalities necessary to acquire them.

C. Congress

Article 54 – Composition

The Congress is composed of all members of EFA.

Article 55 – Delegates

Full members shall be represented at least by two (2) delegates. All full members shall guarantee gender balance amongst their delegates.

All other categories of members shall be represented at least by one (1) delegate.

The Coppieters Foundation and the EFAy can be represented by up to four delegates each. The Coppieters Foundation and the EFAy shall guarantee gender balance amongst their delegates.

Additional delegates can be granted to members competing in European elections or represented in the European Parliament.

Article 56 – Convening

The Congress is convened by the General Assembly, in principle, in the year preceding the European elections.

When the General Assembly convenes the Congress, it shall determine the funding, approve the rules of procedure for the Congress and appoint the congress presidium (as further described in the Rules of Internal Order).

Article 57 – Decisions

The Congress shall adopt decisions according to the procedures governing the General Assembly.

Article 58 – Competences

The competence reserved to the Congress is to:

prepare an electoral manifesto for the elections to the European Parliament.

The competences reserved to the General Assembly cannot be, in principle, delegated to the Congress.

D. Conciliation Committee

Article 59 – Composition

The Conciliation Committee is composed of three (3) members elected for a period of three (3) years.

The members may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.

Only full members that are not represented in the Bureau are eligible to become members of the Conciliation Committee.

A member party shall not be represented by more than one (1) individual member of the Conciliation Committee.

Article 60 – Election

The General Assembly elects the Conciliation Committee and a list of substitutes in accordance with the procedure laid out in the Rules of Internal Order.

Candidate members to the Conciliation Committee shall be required to demonstrate that they are qualified to carry out their role.

Article 61 – Mandate

The Conciliation Committee is mandated to:

inform and advise the Bureau and the General Assembly on staff-related issues;

assist in settling disputes between members, persons, bodies and employees of EFA on issues relating to the interpretation of these Articles of Association, the Rules of Internal Order or any other applicable rule or matter referred to it; and

implement and enforce the anti-harassment policy, as set forth in the Annex to the Rules of Internal Order.

in close collaboration with the Bureau, ensure that all rules and values as set forth in the EFA Charter, including without limitation gender equality, are respected within the members and the Party as a whole;

mediate between members, persons and bodies of EFA if invited to do so by those involved in dispute, and it seek to find a consensual agreement.

Article 62 – Procedures

The Conciliation Committee operates according to the rules of procedure set forth in Annex III of the Rules of Internal Order.

The Conciliation Committee shall report to the General Assembly with recommendations and the General Assembly shall determine the appropriate course of action.

The resolution of staff issues by the Conciliation Committee does not imply nor require the opt-out of any other system of conflict resolution and does not exclude the applicability of the relevant labour laws.

The remit of the Conciliation Committee shall exclude political differences or disputes internal to any one member.

The Conciliation Committee shall use expert and professional advisors or experts to integrate any specific or professional knowledge required for its functions.

If any member of the Conciliation Committee is directly or indirectly involved in a dispute referred to the Conciliation Committee, that person shall be excluded from all discussions and deliberations on that case.

The Conciliation Committee may also be consulted by the Bureau where problems arise in the exercise of its functions.

Deliberations of the Conciliation Committee shall not be normally open to the public. The Conciliation Committee may however decide to hold a public hearing with the consent of all concerned parties.

Article 63 – Decisions

Members, persons and bodies of EFA shall be bound by the outcome of the Conciliation Committee process and the consequent decisions adopted by the General Assembly.

Article 64 – Meeting of the Conciliation Committee

The Conciliation Committee shall convene a meeting of the Conciliation Committee at least once a year.

Any members, persons, bodies and employees of EFA can request a meeting of the Conciliation Committee by submitting a written request to the Conciliation Committee, with a copy sent to the Secretariat. Specific provisions regarding the requests of employees to convene a meeting are set forth in the Rules of Internal Order.

E. Secretariat

Article 65 – Composition

The Secretariat is composed of all the members of the staff of EFA.

Article 66 – Competences

The competences of the Secretariat are to:

implement the decisions taken by the Bureau and the General Assembly;

provide advice and make proposals to the Bureau;
perform the daily operational and organisational activities of the Party.

TITLE IV – RULES OF INTERNAL ORDER

Article 67 – Adoption

The General Assembly shall, on the proposal of the Bureau, adopt the Rules of Internal Order.

The Rules of Internal Order shall neither contradict the BCCA nor these Articles of Association.

Article 68 – Amendments

Amendments to the Rules of Internal Order may be drafted by the Bureau and must be submitted for approval to the General Assembly.

The General Assembly must adopt a decision on the proposed amendments with a simple majority.

Article 69 – Content

The Rules of Internal Order may comprise any measures related to the application of these Articles of Association.

TITLE V – BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS

Article 70 – Financial Year

The financial year of the Party begins on the first (1) of January and ends on the thirty-first (31) of December of the same year.

Article 71 – Annual Budget

After the end of each financial year, the Bureau shall adopt the annual accounts for the past financial year and the budget for the year after and submit them for approval to the General Assembly.

Article 72 – Approval of Budget

After approval of the annual accounts for the past financial year and the budget of the upcoming year, the General Assembly shall vote separately on granting discharge to the Bureau Members.

At least fifteen (15) calendar days before the annual General Assembly, the accounts and budget shall be communicated to the members of the General Assembly.

The members of the General Assembly may ask to inspect, at the registered seat of the Party, any of the documents on which these closed accounts and budgets are based.

Article 73 – Profit

Any surplus shall be added to the assets of the Party and may not under any circumstances be paid to the members as a dividend or in any other way.

Article 74 – Deposit

The Bureau is responsible for the compliance with the applicable law and for the deposit within thirty (30) days of all the documents to the competent administrations.

Article 75 – Accounts and Budget

The Treasurer shall prepare each year the annual accounts and the budget, and present these to the Bureau for finalization.

The finalized annual accounts and budget will be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

The annual accounts are audited by an auditor that is mandated by the European Parliament. The Audit report will be communicated to the subsequent General Assembly.

The bookkeeping is conducted in accordance with international accounting standards defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1606/2002.

TITLE VI – DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION

Article 76 – Dissolution

The Party shall not be dissolved in the event of termination of membership of a member, provided that the number of members does not in consequence fall below the legal requirements.

Except in the event of judicial dissolution and automatic dissolution due to the provisions of applicable law, the Party may be dissolved only with a decision of the General Assembly acting in accordance with the applicable law.

Article 77 – Liquidation

In the event of dissolution decided by the General Assembly or, where appropriate, by a court, one (1) or more liquidators shall be appointed and their powers and the liquidation conditions shall be determined.

Article 78 – Assets

In the event of dissolution, the assets, after payment of the debts, shall be transferred to one (1) or more associations, foundations, institutes or institutions, determined by the General Assembly, which pursue similar goals with a non-profit status.

Article 79 – Deposit of Dissolution

The decision of the court, the General Assembly or the liquidators concerning the dissolution or invalidity of the Party, the liquidation conditions, the appointment and termination of duties of the liquidators, the completion of the liquidation and the determination of the assets shall be deposited to the registrar office of the enterprise court.

TITLE VII – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 80 – Other Matters

All matters not expressly regulated by these Articles of Association shall be governed by the applicable law, the Rules of Internal Order and relevant practice.

Article 81 – Transparency

All the official documents of the Party are accessible by the Party members' and third parties according to the law and in the way prescribed in the Rules of Internal Order.

Article 82 – Treatment of Personal Data

EFA shall comply with all the relevant regulations concerning the protection of personal data.

TITLE VIII – AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

Article 83 – Youth Branch

The non-profit organisation “European Free Alliance Youth” (EFAy) (Brussels register No 0870.658.439) is the youth branch of the European Free Alliance.

EFAy is an associated entity of EFA, as laid out in the relevant article of the EU Funding Regulation and in EFA's annual Contribution Agreement with the European Parliament.

Article 84 – Political Foundation

The “Coppieters Foundation” is the European political foundation affiliated to EFA.

It has a separate financial, governance and management structure showing a clear separation with the Party.

Article 85 – Affiliation

The Coppieters Foundation is independent and acts in autonomy from the Party.

The Coppieters Foundation acts under the framework of Belgian law and shall fully comply with applicable EU regulations.